

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 641

By Bunch

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the members of the Polk County High School Alumni Association on the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of their Alumni Banquet.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should recognize citizens who are celebrating milestones in their respected lives; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Polk County High School Alumni Association will be celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of their Alumni Banquet this year; and

WHEREAS, the occasion will be commemorated with great joy in remembering the past, giving thanks for the present, and eagerly anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, the graduating classmates of Polk County High School have persevered through the years since their respective graduations to become valuable, contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, the alumni of Polk County High School boasts astronauts, clergymen, missionaries, educators, lawyers, doctors, business and industrial leaders, judges, legislators, and many other fine people; and

WHEREAS, the Alumni Banquet allows former classmates to renew old friendships and acquaintances, as well as form new ones; and

WHEREAS, the first banquet was held at the Artz hotel in 1918 and has been held annually since that time, with graduates from honored years being specially recognized; this year's honorees include the classes of 1918, 1928, 1938, 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, and 1998; and

WHEREAS, this year, the estimable class of 2008 will receive particular acknowledgement with the current valedictorian and salutatorian being singularly honored; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County High School Alumni Association generously donates to the school's most recent graduates by awarding a student from the graduating class a scholarship to the school of his or her choice, a tradition the group has carried out for the past fifty years; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, the alumni association has honored exceptional graduates with induction into the Polk County High School Alumni Hall of Fame; these inductees have distinguished themselves in a way that reflects favorably on their Alma Mater and the excellent education they received from Polk County High School and have made a significant contribution that has benefited the residents of their community, county, or country; and

WHEREAS, previous inductees include, Marian Presswood, Charles L. Bates, George Scarborough, Phyllis Edwards Miller, W.I. Davis, R.M. (Dickie) Massengill, Matt Witt, John Dixon, Bill Lillard, Lillian Watkins Wilson, James Lively, and Jasper Rogers; and

WHEREAS, previous posthumous Alumni Hall of Fame inductees include, Frank Lowery, Sonny Cummings, Jimmy Joines, Neil and Nell Higgins, Blanch Rogers, Frank Hammons, Sr., and Charles and Ola Williams; and

WHEREAS, each year, the attendees of the Polk County High School Alumni Association banquet light a memorial candle and take pause in their revelry to reflect upon the venerable lives of their fellow graduates who have passed away since the last banquet; and

WHEREAS, another Alumni Banquet tradition is the presentation of gifts to the oldest graduate in attendance and the one who has traveled the farthest; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County High School Alumni Banquet would not be possible without the tireless efforts, hard work, and determination of the members of the Polk County High School Alumni Association and the capable leadership of its officers; the current Alumni Association officers are President Shawn Allen, Vice-President Mary Woody, Secretary Jane Lawson, Treasurer Randy Yates, and Committee Leaders Lamone Lowery Rose and Wilma Jean Pippenger; and

WHEREAS, the members of the respective graduating classes of Polk County High School have worked hard in their chosen professions and have raised their families to do likewise, while always showing love and respect for their fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, as the celebration of the Polk County High School Alumni Banquet approaches, the members of this body find it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to recognize the special group of people that comprise the Polk County High School Alumni; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the members of the Polk County High School Alumni Association upon the ninetieth anniversary of their Alumni Banquet and applaud the members for their laudable service to the graduates of Polk County High School, past, present and future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.